

The role of the tragedy "January 20" in 1990 in the history of independence and freedom of the Azerbaijani people

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Abstract: The state and people of Azerbaijan, world famous for their ancient traditions of statehood, subsoil and land resources, national and spiritual values, socio-political and cultural figures, have always fought for freedom and independence. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, with the support of Armenians, regional and international forces, Azerbaijanis pursued a policy of racial and religious discrimination against the Azerbaijani people, occupied our lands, ousted the Azerbaijani people from historical Azerbaijani lands, and pursued a policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide. One of such bloody tragedies is the tragedy of "January 20" in the history of Azerbaijan ^[1]. This tragedy in the history of Azerbaijan is popularly called "Bloody January" and "Black January" ^[2].

Keywords: Azerbaijan, Baku, 20 January events, Russian Empire, tragedy

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Introduction

Baku, 1990, "January 20" Tragedy

The policy of the former leader of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985 on the withdrawal of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region from the control of the Azerbaijan SSR (1920-1990) and its inclusion in the Armenian SSR, the deployment of a slanderous campaign against the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, Politics of the USSR on discrimination against the Azerbaijani people, the resettlement of Azerbaijanis from their historical lands of Yerevan, the suppression of the national freedom of the Azerbaijani people, the events in Sumgayit, the events in Nagorno-Karabakh, gave a strong impetus to the national liberation movement of 1988. Thus, the Azerbaijani people saw their freedom and independence in secession from the USSR and the creation of an independent Azerbaijan Republic.

In mid-January 1990, Gala and Nasosnu (now the village of Stadium and Salyan barracks) were transferred to Baku and deployed at the Baku airfields. Armenian officers and soldiers mobilized from Stavropol, Rostov and Krasnodar, as well as Armenian cadets studying in military schools [3], were involved in the army units of the USSR sent to Azerbaijan [4].

On January 15, 1990, the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR M. Gorbachev signed a decree declaring a state of emergency in Nagorno-Karabakh and some other regions, proposing to take all necessary measures, including the application of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in accordance with the forged decision of the Supreme Council Azerbaijan SSR of January 19, 1990 [5], which had no legal force, by signing the decree, the former head of the USSR M. Gorbachev grossly violated Articles 119 of the Constitution of the Union and 71 of the Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR.

On January 19, as a result of an operation organized by the Alfa group of the KGB of the USSR and the leadership of the KGB of the republic, the power unit of the republican television was blown up in order to prevent the population from being officially informed about the declaration of a state of emergency in Baku. That night, pickets and barricades were set up in 26 places in Baku, access to 34 out of 60 military units of the city, including the Salyan barracks, was blocked.

Despite the introduction of a state of emergency on the night of January 19-20, the troops were the first to enter the city from the direction of Turkan-Gala on January 19 at 21:00. The operation "Baku" was directly led by the Minister of Defense of the USSR Dmitry Yazov, the Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR Vadim Bakatin and the Deputy Chairman of the KGB of the USSR Filipp Babkov [6].

Troops of the Baku garrison, dropped military units, paratroopers taken from warships attacked the city. Heavy military equipment easily destroyed the barricades. The streets of the city were covered with the blood of innocent people - the elderly, women and children - shot and wounded. The military accidentally fired at houses, ambulances, who took to the streets, killed the wounded, burned the corpses, insulted and mutilated them. People fell under the tracks of heavy military equipment and died in agony.

Before the state of emergency was declared, the Soviet army committed a monstrous crime against its citizens. On the night of January 19, 1990, tanks and armored vehicles for various purposes were involved in the hostilities, and ships belonging to the Caspian Fleet were sent to the city.

As a result of the illegal penetration of Soviet troops during the Bloody January tragedy in Baku and the regions of Azerbaijan, 147 people were killed, 744 people were injured, 841 people were illegally arrested, 112 of them were taken to different cities of the USSR and detained. As a result of incendiary fires, the military destroyed 200 houses and apartments, 80 vehicles, including ambulances, destroyed a large amount of public and private property. State, public and private property was damaged in the amount of 5,637,286 rubles in the prices of that period.

Neftchala region, January 25, 1990 – Tragedy

A few days later, the troops deployed to Baku to capture the civilian population headed south - to Neftchala, Jalilabad and Lankaran. On January 25 and 26, Soviet troops, under various pretexts, clashed with the local population in these areas, arresting and shooting innocent people. The incident began on January 25 at 18:32. Prior to the events, the National Liberation Movement activists in Neftchala had been negotiating to prevent the possibility of any massacres or confrontation. However, the Soviet military, who carried out a provocative plan in Neftchala, gathered before the protest wave in the name of negotiations in the building of the Karabakh Defense Committee and began to threaten and demand the surrender of any weapons [7]. As people gathered inside the building, explosions were heard outside. Those who fled from the building were also shot at. The captured activists were taken to the Bank with their hands tied. They were tortured. In the village of Khylli, tanks and PDM were driven to the gates of the suspects and haystacks were burned in the yards [9]. Ibrahim Nurlu writes in his book "The January Massacre in

Neftchala" that in the last days of captivity, tanks roamed the streets of the city, and Soviet soldiers controlled the situation. The hypocritical report, signed by the Neftchala commander O. Shelukhin, said that when the special forces entered Neftchala, members of the regional defense council used weapons, and the special forces opened fire in return. Lieutenant Aksenov was killed, a soldier was wounded. At the same time, one resident died, three were hospitalized. Allegedly, the population has machine guns, machine guns, pistols and grenades, the search continues.

Alekper Haji Magomedali oglu Talibov [8], a veteran of January 20, who was an active participant in the battles for the independence of Azerbaijan and the integrity of our lands, recalls the years spent in the National Liberation Movement: "My activities in the National Liberation Movement began in November 1988 and continued until 1993. We had no weapons at all during the protests against the events of January 20 in Neftchala. We simply rebelled against the events of January 20 in Baku. The day before, we received information that the commander of the military unit wants to meet with you. We also agreed to a meeting and thought that they should meet with us so as not to endanger the population. The day before, helicopters flew in Neftchala [11], fired light bullets or provoked. They opened fire on people, as if provoking the population. We had information that special forces "Alpha" of the USSR Armed Forces were arriving in Neftchala to conduct reconnaissance. We knew that this incident would also take place in Neftchala [10]. Neftchala was completely blocked. But we heard it in time and prevented new pogroms. However, despite the will of the people, the Soviet army defeated us. Two people died in Neftchala. During the bloody events in Baku, I also took part in the blockade of fishing boats in order to prevent massacres of Soviet troops. We resisted the Soviet troops in the Baku Bay. We tried to keep them out of the city. We disobeyed the Russians and raised the flag on the bridge of our ship... I was repeatedly pursued by border guards. At that time, I was pursued by two officers of the KGB of the USSR... But I did not change my conviction that there can be no cowardice on the path of truth, on the path of the people... For a while they thought that I died after the bloody events in Neftchala [12]. Because at first they wanted to shoot us in the military unit in the village of Bank, but at the last moment they were distracted and taken by helicopter to Baku. Although it was decided to throw it into the sea when crossing the Caspian, this idea was later abandoned. At this time, we, the activists, were loaded into a helicopter as a bunch. We were not thrown into the sea, but brought to Baku Airport. They lined us up again and tried to shoot us. At that moment, the deputy of the Azerbaijani investigation group (Arif Malikov, Fikret Amirov, Adila Namazova and others) arrived at the scene, took us from the Soviet military and took us to the Tagiyev prison in Shuvalan. Due to the serious condition, we were taken to the Mardakan city hospital No. 26. In the hospital, the villagers showed us enough attention and care. He supplied them with medicines and clothes... That evening the nation really showed unity. I thank the doctors, nurses and residents of the Mardakan City Hospital No. 26. They helped us a lot. After recovery, we got back into the fight. [13]"

During the events of January 25, 1990, 2 people were killed in Neftchala, 10 were wounded and 30 people were wounded in Neftchala. During the January events of 1990, a group of people wounded during the aggressive invasion of the USSR Armed Forces in Baku and a number of regions of the former Soviet Union was awarded the honorary title of "Freedom Fighter" of the Republic of Azerbaijan [14]. In the Neftchala region, 12 people, including my father Alekper Talybov, were awarded this title - Agahuseinov Nureddin Aslan oglu (posthumously), Jafarov Abulfaz Beyukaga oglu (posthumously), Orudzhev Shamsaddin Abilhasan oglu (posthumously), Ramiz Jafar oglu Huseynov, Novruz Allahverdi oglu Dadashov, Alekper Mammadali oglu Talybov, Bakhtiyar Agahuseyn oglu Agayev, Magommed Tazakhan oglu Farziyev, Farman Kamran oglu Huseynov, Ogtay Abilkhassan oglu Orudzhev, Aligeydar Khanahad oglu Mamedov, Abdulla Khanali oglu Agayev, Imamverdi Agamahammad oglu Zeynalov.

January 26, 1990 Lanakaran tragedy.

In the bloody days of January 11, those who rose to the pinnacle of martyrdom in the struggle for the freedom of the Azerbaijani people were Lankarans [15]. Five of them, Telman Bagirov, Mirsalam Abulfatov, Asif Asadullayev, Aflatun Kazimov and Azad Mirzoev, became victims of the armed aggression of the Soviet army on the streets of Baku on the night of January 19-20. On January 26, six people - Tariel Abdullayev, Salman Bakhshiev, Rovshan Badalov, Vagif Mammadov, Rahim Mammadov and Shahin Mammadov - were brutally killed by Russian paratroopers in the Khafton forest of Lankaran, 11 were wounded, 46 were arrested [16].

At that time, protest rallies against imperial slavery took place not only in the capital, but throughout the country. The situation in the southern region of Azerbaijan was also tense. People stood up who wanted freedom and independence [19]. Border checkpoints in Jalilabad and Astara were destroyed [18]. In Neftchala and Lankaran, state bodies that got out of control were paralyzed. The military equipment of the Soviet troops was ready to shed blood here too. The punitive detachments of the army, which "successfully" carried out this vile plan in Baku, were the first to reach Neftchala and stained the freedom fighters with their blood. It was Lankaran's turn [17]. According to eyewitnesses, the Russian military sent to Lankaran allegedly demanded the unconditional surrender of weapons from the popular movement, threatening the civilian population. Seeing that the situation was becoming more and more dramatic, the activists retreated to the mountain-forest zone in order to reduce tension in the city and not endanger the population. But the paratroopers of the Salvation Army, who wanted to gouge out people's eyes, immediately surrounded the forest and shot people there.

Result

It should be noted that January 20 is celebrated in the Republic of Azerbaijan as an official day of mourning and is a non-working day. On the same day, the Azerbaijani people come to Baku from all cities and regions to visit the martyrs who died for the freedom and independence of their people. In Azerbaijan, after the events of Bloody January 1990, carnations are called the flowers of mourning. In connection with the tragedy of January 20, on the initiative and instruction of the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, on March 29, 1994, the Parliament of Azerbaijan adopted a Resolution "On the tragic events of January 20, 1990 in Baku." ", August 1998 May 5 at the Alley of Martyrs in Baku (The Alley of Martyrs is a mass grave where the martyrs of the Black January and Karabakh wars are buried. The Alley of Martyrs served as the Chambarakand cemetery, Mountain Park and Kirov Park) His order gave a political and legal assessment of the tragedy 20 January 2010 [20]. The "Monument-complex of January 20" was opened in the Yasamal district of Baku in 2010. The names and surnames of 147 people who died in the tragedy are engraved on the complex in gold letters. Located on the Alley of Martyrs, this monument consists of a tomb with a golden glass dome standing on the 8-pointed star. The graceful network decorating the walls of the tomb gives the monumental structure a certain airiness and transparency. In the course of the reconstruction of the Alley of Martyrs, by order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in 2007, the columns of the Eternal Torch monument were raised, the pores of the octagonal star were decorated and octagonal mirror in a monument with gold Not only in Baku, Neftchala and Lankaran, but in all In the cities and regions of Azerbaijan there is an Alley of Martyrs dedicated to the martyrs of January 20, the Khojaly and Karabakh wars.

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